

# Lawton and Stoakes

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## Newsletter Spring 2020



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### Staff News

We have a new member of staff to introduce; Hannah Brazier RVN is a qualified Veterinary Nurse who has a special interest in the nursing of exotic species.

Hannah will take on the role of Clinical Coach as she has experience of Clinical Coaching in her previous role.

Emily our Head Nurse will be taking a few months off for Maternity Leave as her baby boy is due in May. We wish her all the best as she prepares for motherhood and look forward to her return.

We currently do not have a full time Veterinary Assistant and so there is only one Vet consulting each day. We appreciate your patience as we try to schedule appointments around the Veterinary Surgeons availability. Martin has attended the Western States Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas again this year and Lynne will be attending BSAVA Congress in Birmingham in April. Noemie is kindly covering for us to enable us to complete our mandatory CPD (Continuing Professional Development).



### STAFF

#### VETERINARY SURGEONS

**DR. Martin Lawton** B.Vet.Med; Cert.V. Ophthal;  
Cert L.A.S; C.Biol; M.S.B;  
D. Zoo Med; FRCVS

**Dr Lynne Stoakes** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

**Dr. Noemie McDermott** B.Vet.Med. MRCVS

#### RECEPTIONISTS

**Julie Austin** (Administrator)

**Clare Brimstone**

#### NURSING STAFF

**Emily Mathias** RVN

**Laura Bouchier** RVN

**Hannah Brazier** RVN

**Reiss Smith** 1st Year Trainee

### In the News

A "Bald" hedgehog was returned to the wild after regrowing its spines following a Ringworm infection. It was treated by the SPCA and was named Ratty by the nurses. Ringworm is in fact a fungal infection and can cause severe itching and skin disease.



Hedgehogs are in decline and need our help and protection.

## What's New?

We have purchased a new icare Tonovet machine. This new device measures the intra-ocular pressure (pressure within the eyeball) and replaces our old Tonopen. The advantages of the new device are that it is better tolerated by pets and as such no local anaesthetic drops are required, which often sting when applied. The icare Tonovet takes 6 readings of the intra-ocular pressure and takes an average. It is used primarily to diagnose and monitor treatment for glaucoma among other things. At £3000 it is not a cheap piece of equipment but one which will improve our patients' experience at the Vet!



## IN THE NEWS

### Covid-19 Coronavirus Outbreak

A recent report from Hong Kong revealed a dog had tested weakly positive for COVID-19. The Coronavirus causing this disease is very species specific and is therefore unlikely to affect our pets or be transmitted by them. Sensible precautions as advised by the Government Medical Authorities should be followed.

## Nursing Natter: Aggression at the Vets Emily Mathias RVN

As a profession Vets, Nurses and Receptionists alike are all used to seeing a variety of patients all with their own temperament and personality traits. It's no secret that occasionally both vets and nurses end up on the wrong end of a cat scratch or a dog bite, if you look at most of our arms you'll see old scars and they almost always have a war story to accompany them! Jokes aside, aggression is a universal factor when dealing with animals, it may be down to fear, pain, anxiety or just temperament. We understand this and from a patient perspective, do everything we can to alleviate the patients concerns and deal with the task at hand. Honesty is the most important consideration here and if you are aware your pet is particularly reactive to an injury or generally doesn't like the vets, it is vital you make the vet and nurse aware for everyone's safety, including you and your animal's. Please never feel ashamed to ask for a muzzle or just to remind the Vet if your pet has any behaviour traits that could pose a risk. We would always rather be over cautious and don't want you and your pet to have a bad experience.

On a personal note I am off on Maternity leave in early spring so won't be writing this segment for a little while, all being well I will be returning to work in early 2021 and look forward to seeing you all then! Emily



## Springwatch

Life is beginning to stir as our wildlife emerges from a winter in hibernation. Likewise, if you own tortoises that have hibernated this year it is time to check on them. With the mild winter weather last year some owners found it hard to encourage their tortoises to go into hibernation, others found that they woke early. If tortoises were not cold enough during hibernation, they may have used up precious reserves and may need help to recover. Remember warm baths are useful to rehydrate and bring your tortoise's internal temperature up to their preferred range. If the weather turns cold as it so often does in March keep them warm at all times. Tortoises should be eating within a couple of days. We offer a post hibernation health check for all your tortoises at a special discounted rate. If you have any concerns for the health of your tortoise please telephone us for advice from our vets.

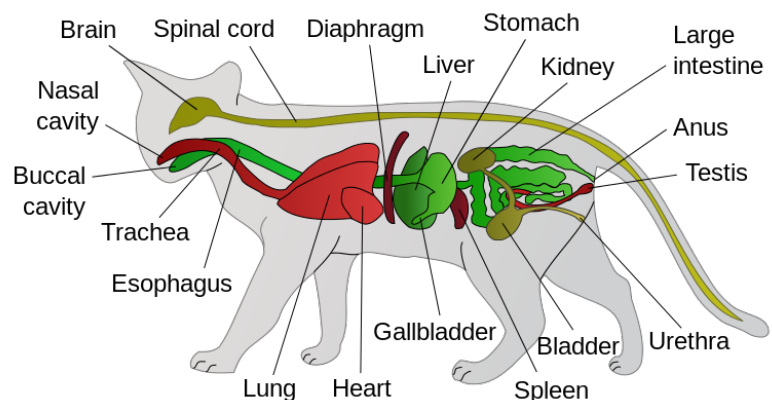


Some of the Lawton tortoises huddling under their heat lamp 4/3/20

## Student Focus Reiss Smith

Hi everyone, here is another update on what I have been up to while studying to be a veterinary nurse. While at college I have been continuing to learn more about anatomy and physiology and have covered some more systems including the musculoskeletal system and digestive system of a range of species. In addition, I have been

learning about parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa and prions. While at work I have begun to complete my nursing progress log (NPL). This covers practical applications of the theory I am learning at College. I am around 10% through this now and am working alongside Emily and Hannah to carry on at this pace.





## Exotic Spot by Hannah Brazier

### The Pancake Tortoise

Scientific Name: *Malacochersus tornieri*.

Pancake Tortoises are especially adapted to live in the scrubland and rocky outcrops of Kenya and Tanzania. Their shells are flattened and more flexible than the Mediterranean tortoises so that they can run fast and climb to escape predators. They wedge themselves into rocky crevices and inhale so they cannot be pulled out and eaten. The males of this species have longer tails than the females and they reach a mature size of 15cm long and only 3cm high. Pancake Tortoises do not hibernate and prefer a day-time temperature of 37C and a night temperature of 23C. They need to be kept indoors in this country and so need a UVB light source on for 12 hours a day. They eat grasses and succulents and have a life expectancy of 30 years.

They are critically endangered in the wild mainly due to capture by humans for the pet trade. If you are interested in keeping this species as a pet it is imperative that you make sure that they are captive bred and not taken from the wild.



## KIDS CORNER

The animals below want to go home. Can you draw a line between each animal and its house to help them?



## BREED FOCUS Basset Fauve De Bretagne

This is a highly energetic small hunting breed of dog. They were introduced to the UK from France in 1983. They grow to about 32-38cm (12-15in) tall and have a short wiry coat which needs stripping twice a year. They have an average lifespan of 11-14 years. As scent hounds they have an urge to hunt and so early training in puppyhood is necessary if you want a co-operative pet!

